United Nations A/71/230

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 July 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Item 19 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development: disaster risk reduction

Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/204.

Disasters exact an enormous toll on economic development, conservatively estimated at between $250 and $300 billion annually. However, these figures mask a disproportionately large impact on low-income countries, which incur average annual losses from disasters equivalent to 22 per cent of social spending. These costs are increasing rapidly owing to a failure to incorporate disaster risk in economic, social and environmental investments and as a result of climate change. Without a radical change of course, disasters will continue to reverse development gains and undermine efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Disaster risk reduction, as reflected in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, represents such a change of course. It provides a practical and tangible bridge between the development and humanitarian communities, as well as an important rallying point for Governments and key stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to reduce disaster and climate risk.

During the first year of implementation, plans and approaches at all levels have been reviewed and revised by many Member States to align them with the Sendai Framework. Many new partnerships have been established. Extensive work has been undertaken on the global monitoring system for the Sendai Framework, including on the indicators for the global targets and updating the terminology.

* A/71/150.

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Reducing disaster risk is a collaborative endeavour. Concerted efforts have been made to establish coherence with other internationally agreed agendas and frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 69/218 and 70/110, the present report also includes an update on El Niño/La Niña conditions and a section on addressing the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon.

I. State of disaster risk

1. Disasters represent a substantial setback to development. A number of drivers resulting from human activity and poorly risk-informed development investments continue to push disaster risk to unacceptable levels. These drivers include pervasive poverty and inequality, rapid and poorly managed urban growth, environmental degradation, climate change and governance frameworks that underestimate disaster risk. As a result, disasters continue to damage and destroy critical assets and livelihoods and undermine years of social and economic development.

2. The 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon was one of the strongest observed over the last 50 years, and its impacts were felt worldwide. Severe tropical cyclones affected the Pacific islands and South-East Asia. Heavy rains caused severe flooding in southern India in November 2015. In Ecuador, between July 2015 and June 2016 there were more than 200 floods and landslides linked with El Niño.[1] At the same time, 2015 was the hottest year on record. Heatwaves between June and September claimed the lives of more than 7,000 people in Africa, the Middle East and Europe, while the 2016 heatwave and drought in South Asia is set to affect millions of people.

3. Far from being exceptions, these weather-related events are becoming the new normal as climate change increases the intensity, frequency and variability of extreme weather conditions. Their environmental and socioeconomic consequences, including significant impacts on health and food security, are already being felt, with women and girls often disproportionately affected.

4. While the majority of disasters are associated with weather-related events, risks associated with geophysical hazards also threaten. In Japan and Ecuador in April 2016 about 7,000 homes and buildings were damaged[2] by earthquakes and 650 people lost their lives. Moreover, serious outbreaks of communicable diseases around the globe, including cholera, yellow fever, Zika virus and Lassa fever, highlight the importance of investing in resilient health systems. Global average annual loss from earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclone winds and storm surges alone are estimated at 1.2-1.7 per cent of annual global gross domestic product (GDP). Add to this the requirements for climate change adaptation investments of around 1 per cent of GDP,[3] and these combined costs could cancel out the projected global GDP growth rate of around 3 per cent annually.[4] Taking into account the expected impact of climate change, the average annual loss may be significantly larger in the future.[5] In several countries in Asia and Latin America, average annual loss already exceeded the average annual growth rate over the 10 years between 2000 and 2010. However, these figures mask a disproportionately large impact on low-income countries, which incur average annual losses equivalent to 22 per cent of social spending.

5. Major investments in infrastructure, urban development, health systems, education, transportation, communications, water, agriculture, energy and other vital

[1] See www.desinventar.net.

[2] See http://reliefweb.int/updates.

[3] *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, 2006.

[4] See www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects.

[5] Indian Institute for Human Settlements.

sectors continue to be made without considering disaster risk. Accumulating disaster risk presents a growing obstacle to making the capital investments and social expenditure necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed agendas and frameworks.

II. Integrated approach to implementing and monitoring the reduction of disaster risk

6. With the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the international community made a firm commitment to prioritize disaster risk reduction. Each of the landmark agreements reached in 2015, namely the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement on climate change, reaffirms the need to reduce disaster risk. Together with relevant international agreements, such as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted in 2014, they represent an unprecedented opportunity to provide a more coherent and integrated global policy framework for managing disaster risk and strengthening resilience.

Coherence with other internationally agreed agendas and frameworks

7. Disaster risk can be managed only through the processes which create it. Therefore, the Sendai Framework puts forward a disaster risk management paradigm to be applied across all relevant agendas and sectors. Coherence, effective linkages and mutual reinforcement between the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the other international agreements can be achieved in a number of ways.

8. The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in March 2015, invited the General Assembly to consider including the review of global progress in implementing the Sendai Framework as part of its integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299, will provide effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for all relevant United Nations conferences and processes.

9. The Sendai Framework will have an important role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and vice versa. In fact, 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals have targets related to disaster risk reduction. Similarly, all seven global targets of the Sendai Framework are critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A number of shared core indicators related to disaster risk reduction are being finalized through the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Shared indicators can reduce the reporting burden on countries while contributing to the implementation and monitoring of both frameworks. Through concerted implementation, both can shape public and private sector efforts and build partnerships to address the underlying drivers of risk and reduce future levels of risk.

10. To ensure that development efforts avoid creating new risk, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda encourages the consideration of climate and disaster resilience in development financing. Through the Action Agenda, Member States have committed to develop and implement a holistic approach to disaster risk management in line with the Sendai Framework, including through technical support and innovative financing mechanisms. Equally, achieving the Sendai Framework's global targets of increasing the number of countries with disaster risk reduction strategies and enhancing international cooperation through adequate and sustainable support will contribute to the Action Agenda.

11. Reducing disaster risk is an essential part of efforts to address climate change. While holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels will reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, the Paris Agreement also established a goal on climate adaptation that considers enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing risk and vulnerability to climate change. Signatories to the Agreement recognize that disaster risk reduction tools can significantly reduce loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. In this regard, coherence between the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement in terms of aligning tools and metrics and leveraging partnerships and initiatives for implementation can greatly contribute to climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

12. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction will play a critical role in supporting the coherent implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework. The global and regional platforms are currently aligning their agendas and methods to drive coherence in implementation across the various internationally agreed agendas and frameworks. The outcomes of the global and regional platforms will provide substantive inputs to the high-level political forum when it discusses specific Sustainable Development Goals and the contribution of disaster risk reduction to the themes of the Forum's sessions in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

13. The upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review will be an opportunity to ensure consistency and alignment across all aspects of the 2030 Agenda at country level. It provides an opportunity to further harmonize the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals on the ground. Efforts by United Nations country teams to bring their disaster and climate risk activities in line with the Sendai Framework can significantly contribute to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to ensure that disaster risk reduction considerations are fully integrated into the work of the United Nations at country level.

14. The Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Sendai Framework both recognize the particular vulnerability of least developed countries to disasters and the impacts of climate change. At the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, held in May 2016, Member States underlined the need to strengthen the resilience of least developed countries to withstand disasters and climate change. The Sendai Framework was highlighted as a means to develop and implement integrated disaster risk reduction strategies among least developed countries.

15. Commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 can contribute to the implementation of internationally agreed agendas and frameworks. At the Summit, global leaders recognized that supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework had direct benefits for reducing humanitarian needs and associated cost. Therefore, follow-up on the core responsibility of the Summit to move from delivering aid to ending needs, including through investing in prevention and preparedness, improving practices around data collection, risk analysis and early warning, and establishing multisectoral partnerships to advance resilience and preparedness, can contribute to achieving the Sendai Framework's global targets.

16. In June 2016, the International Law Commission adopted the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters (A/CN.4/L.871). In particular, draft article 9 on reduction of the risk of disasters represents a critical contribution to the development of normative frameworks for disaster risk reduction. Overall, there is a strong alignment and complementarity as well as a functional relationship between the draft articles and the Sendai Framework, in that the former articulate the duty to reduce the risk of disasters and to cooperate, and the latter articulates modalities and measures that States need to adopt to discharge this duty.

Measuring progress through the Sendai Framework monitor

17. Pursuant to paragraph 50 of the Sendai Framework, the General Assembly established the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group to develop indicators to measure progress in implementing the Sendai Framework's seven global targets and to update the publication entitled "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction". A total of 107 Member States have nominated over 250 experts from a variety of national ministries and departments. In addition, representatives of United Nations entities and participants from civil society organizations, the private sector, and scientific, technical and academic institutions are providing technical support during the process. The work of the working group will be completed by December 2016 with a report submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration.

18. The intergovernmental expert working group has paid close attention to the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators while members of the latter group recognize the need for coherence between the Sendai Framework indicators and disaster risk-related indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals. It is anticipated that the Inter-Agency and Expert Group will utilize the indicators developed by the intergovernmental expert working group in its proposed list of indicators related to disaster risk reduction under Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13.

19. To support Member States in their self-assessment and reporting on the global targets of the Sendai Framework, an online Sendai Framework monitor will be launched at the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in May 2017. The monitor will support States in the collection of data and the establishment of baselines required to report against the agreed set of indicators through periodic national self-assessment using national disaster loss databases and other relevant national datasets. The Sendai Framework monitor will include options for monitoring nationally developed targets and indicators. To assist States, a suite of possible indicators for measuring progress against national targets is being tested in five countries.

National and local disaster risk reduction strategies

20. The global target of the Sendai Framework to "substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020" is a prerequisite for achieving the other targets. Member States have committed to developing new and improving existing disaster risk reduction strategies and plans with clear targets and indicators by 2020. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction offers support to Member States in achieving this target through technical guidance as well as by providing coordination support and catalyzing actions of the United Nations system and other partners. For example, in June 2016, India released its first National Disaster Management Plan, which is based on the four priorities for action of the Sendai Framework.

21. To be able to develop national plans with measurable targets and indicators, and to monitor progress against these, countries will need to prepare baselines on key indicators such as current losses, national and local risk profiles and available capacities. Currently, around 45 per cent of Member States have national disaster loss databases. This gap will need to be closed in order to generate a global baseline.

22. Further support to countries is required for the formulation of targets for national strategies and plans; the selection of appropriate indicators to measure progress; the identification and analysis of challenges and lessons; the review of data availability to establish baselines; the active engagement of all relevant sectors and the establishment of feedback mechanisms; the alignment of indicators with sustainable development and climate change adaptation; and the review of national plans and implementation. Coordinated action across the United Nations system, the science and technology community, the private sector and civil society will be crucial.

United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: "Towards a risk-informed and integrated approach to sustainable development"

23. The Sendai Framework calls upon the United Nations system to support disaster risk reduction efforts in a coordinated manner, bringing together coherently the work of the various United Nations entities. This reflects the broader expectation of Member States for support that maximizes synergies and optimizes the efficient use of financial and other resources. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/204, the present report considers the requirements of the United Nations system to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework and includes an update on progress on the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

24. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination called for a revision of the 2013 United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience to align it with the Sendai Framework and ensure strategic and programmatic linkage with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Subsequently, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction led an inter-agency process to produce the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience entitled "Towards a risk-informed and integrated approach to sustainable development", which was endorsed by the Board in April 2016.

25. The Plan of Action outlines 3 commitments and 11 expected results. The commitments aim to strengthen system-wide coherence in support of the Sendai Framework, and other agreements, through risk-informed and integrated approaches; to build the capacity of the United Nations system to deliver coordinated, high-quality support to countries on disaster risk reduction; and to ensure that disaster risk reduction remains a strategic priority for United Nations entities.

26. The Plan of Action calls on United Nations entities to prioritize disaster risk reduction in their strategic work plans; to regularly monitor and report on progress; and to engage their respective constituents to implement the Sendai Framework. In particular, the Plan of Action emphasizes the need for operational guidance and more tangible support to United Nations country teams. As part of his functions to drive integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction will lead implementation and promote coordination and will convene a United Nations leadership group to oversee operationalization of the plan, review progress and ensure coherence across the United Nations development system.

27. A number of United Nations country teams around the world have already updated their United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in line with the Sendai Framework. Recognizing disaster and climate resilience as an integral component of sustainable development has prompted the incorporation of disaster risk reduction and resilience into national planning documents and Development Assistance Frameworks in at least 31 countries. The revised interim guidance on the Framework, issued in May 2016, identifies risk management as one of four key enablers for integrated programming.

28. Several United Nations entities and international organizations recognize their important role in reducing disaster risk and the significant contributions that their work can make in implementing the Sendai Framework. The following few examples are indicative of the wide range of ongoing disaster risk reduction initiatives.

29. The midterm review of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Strategic Plan (2014-2017) reaffirmed disaster risk reduction and recovery as global priorities, with an annual programme expenditure for disaster risk reduction and recovery of approximately $256 million. Subsequently, with support from UNDP, in 2015, 51 countries developed disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption plans; 28 countries produced preparedness plans; 26 countries strengthened early warning systems; and 13 countries built capacity to lead and coordinate recovery efforts. Furthermore, UNDP is leading a partnership initiative titled 5-10-50, which delivers risk-informed development with a focus on five critical areas, in line with the Sendai Framework. It will be implemented over 10 years in at least 50 countries. The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative, an inter-agency initiative led by UNDP, is another example of coordinated support to Governments to build national capacities for disaster risk reduction.

30. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is leading the way in implementing the Sendai Framework to reduce the vulnerability of people displaced by crisis, with approximately $68 million allocated to 62 ongoing projects in 20 countries. IOM works with Governments to formulate policies to manage planned relocation of settlements in highly disaster-prone areas; supports communities at

risk of displacement by disasters to enhance their preparedness and to "build back better"; and provides durable and safe solutions for people living in displacement camps by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into shelter construction.

31. In order to ensure that development assistance is risk-informed, in 2015 all 255 World Bank Group operations in low-income countries were screened to assess their consideration of climate and disaster risk, and over 90 countries received support to mainstream disaster resilience in their development priorities. This approach has been bolstered by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a global partnership housed at the World Bank which provides seed money and capacity support to facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and to mainstream disaster risk management into national development plans.

III. Progress in implementing the Sendai Framework

32. Implementation of the Sendai Framework builds on countries' ongoing efforts initiated under the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. While the structures for the efficient implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework are being put in place, important preliminary results have already been achieved during its first year of implementation.

A. Preparations for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms

33. Preparations are under way for the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be hosted by the Government of Mexico in Cancun from 22 to 26 May 2017. As the first Global Platform to be held since the adoption of the Sendai Framework, it will be an opportunity to assess progress on implementation and to share innovative practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, while offering a space to forge new partnerships and promote the integration of disaster risk management.

34. In 2017 the Global Platform will take stock of the progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework, with specific focus on the imminent target to substantially increase the number of countries with disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, as well as targets to reduce global disaster mortality and direct disaster-related economic loss by 2030. Progress in defining baselines and risk profiles, including the establishment or enhancement of systems to record disaster losses, will also be examined, while the announcement of cutting-edge disaster risk reduction initiatives will help drive implementation. As active and broad consultation is critical to the successful outcome of the Global Platform, an online consultation process has been initiated for Member States and stakeholders.

35. Outcomes of the Global Platform will be captured in a chair's summary and a high-level communiqué which will inform the deliberations of the 2017 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council to further foster integration between Sendai Framework global targets and the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant international and regional bodies.

36. The Global Platform will be informed by the discussions and outcomes of the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction to be convened in 2016 and 2017. Regional platforms are key instruments to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework and monitor its progress. Efforts are being made to align the regional platforms with the Framework's targets and to standardize the discussions, outcomes and monitoring tools between the global and regional platforms.

37. For example, political support for the coordinated implementation of the Sendai Framework across Africa was solidified at the fourth high-level meeting on disaster risk reduction hosted in Yaoundé by the Government of Cameroon on 23 July 2015. Adopted in a spirit of regional cooperation and coherence, the Yaoundé Declaration lays a solid foundation for implementing the Sendai Framework, including within the organs of the African Union, and calls for a review of the successor to the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) in line with the Sendai Framework. The successor document will be tabled for agreement at the forthcoming sixth session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Port Louis from 22 to 25 November 2016. Similarly, the League of Arab States has produced a regional road map for the implementation of the Sendai Framework which will guide discussions at the third Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in 2016.

38. The first session of the Central Asia and South Caucasus Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe on 12 July 2016. At the meeting, Governments made progress on the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The outcomes of this regional platform, as well as of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, to be held in October 2016 in Suva, will inform the development of policy recommendations and plans of actions at the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in November 2016.

39. At the sixth annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in October 2015, the Forum adopted a road map on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, specifically aligned to the 2020 target of the Framework. The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group is currently developing an action matrix for the road map's priorities, which will provide guidance to implement integrated disaster risk reduction activities across Europe.

40. The first meeting of ministers and high-level authorities on the implementation of the Sendai Framework was hosted by the Government of Paraguay on 8 and 9 June 2016 in Asunción. Governments from across the region adopted the Asunción Declaration and initiated a consultation process to formulate an action plan to implement the Sendai Framework across the Americas, to be adopted at the Americas Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be hosted by the Government of Canada early in 2017.

B. Strengthening regional-level action to implement the Sendai Framework

41. Regional intergovernmental organizations, supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, are playing a central role in reducing disaster risk through the exchange of good practice, the standardization of region-specific codes and guidelines, the adoption of common information and early warning systems and the dissemination of tried and tested tools and methodologies. A number of regional intergovernmental organizations are aligning their work to the Sendai Framework and the outcomes of the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and are guiding coordinated efforts to implement the Sendai Framework at the regional level.

Africa

42. The eighth session of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction was convened in Addis Ababa in February 2016 and a road map was developed with specific recommendations to guide the African Union Commission, regional economic communities and Member States in implementing the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, the East African Legislative Assembly adopted the East African Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act in March 2016 to promote cross-border cooperation as well as national implementation of disaster risk reduction. In Central Africa, following the adoption of the Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation, the Economic Community of Central African States established a disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation unit. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre organized three climate outlook forums for the Greater Horn of Africa which provided short- and medium-term weather forecasts to facilitate early warning and action. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction provided disaster risk reduction training to some 50 staff from different departments of the IGAD and East African Community secretariats. Lastly, the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community convened the fifth Africa Leadership Development Forum on Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction into Development.

Arab States

43. Guided by the principles of the Sendai Framework, a review of the League of Arab States Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 gave rise to a more comprehensive and coordinated strategy that brings together the commitments from the two Arab regional platforms into line with the Sendai Framework targets and priorities for action. Subsequently, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment endorsed a regional road map to implement the Sendai Framework which includes the reactivation of an Arab mechanism for disasters, to facilitate coordinated implementation and monitoring across the region.

Asia and the Pacific

44. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has adopted the 2016-2020 work programme of its Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. This work programme provides regional road maps and strategies on risk assessment, risk financing and insurance, resilient infrastructure and basic services,

as well as capacity-building for its member States. In addition, the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action for 2016-2020 to implement the ASEAN-United Nations strategic partnership is due to be tabled at the ASEAN-United Nation Summit to be held in September 2016. The Plan of Action provides an opportunity for disaster risk reduction to be integrated across the Association's work on peace and security, economic growth, and social and cultural development.

45. The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization is working on a regional strategy for disaster risk reduction aligned with the Sendai Framework. The strategy will enhance collaboration among its 10 member States to integrate disaster risk reduction into economic cooperation in the region.

46. In South Asia, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is developing a new strategy to facilitate an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development and to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. To this end, the newly created Disaster Management Centre, which brings together the Association's work on disaster risk reduction, the environment and coastal ecosystems, has developed the South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network as a gateway to knowledge and information on disaster risk management. The Centre also produced a disaster management framework, road maps for disaster management across a number of thematic areas and a set of school safety assessment tools tailored to the region.

47. The proposed Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management aims to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of slow and sudden-onset natural hazards by integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts with disaster risk reduction approaches and activities towards sustainable development. The proposed Framework will be presented to the Pacific Leaders Forum in September 2016 for endorsement. In order to reduce the burden of reporting, efforts will be made to harmonize reporting mechanisms between the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Europe

48. To ensure a risk-informed approach for all European Union policies, the European Commission developed an action plan on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, while it is anticipated that the Council of Europe will endorse a four-year workplan on disaster risk management in October 2016. Moreover, the European Union Committee of the Regions included implementing the Sendai Framework as a priority in its current workplan. By aligning their funding requirements with the Sendai Framework, the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation and the Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection will greatly contribute to promoting disaster risk reduction across Europe and beyond. Furthermore, the European Commission Directorate General for Climate Action developed a new initiative titled "Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy" which facilitates the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation among local authorities in line with the Sendai Framework.

Americas

49. In the Americas, the Union of South American Nations High-Level Working Group for Disaster Risk Management agreed on the formulation of a South American strategy for disaster risk reduction. At the subregional level, the Central American Integration System conducted a comparative analysis of existing regional and national policies vis-à-vis the Sendai Framework. A road map has been produced to harmonize the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management with the Sendai Framework. The Caribbean Community Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency harmonized the 2014-2024 Comprehensive Caribbean Disaster Management Strategy and indicators with those of the Sendai Framework. Similarly, the Association of Caribbean States is incorporating disaster risk considerations into regional instruments such as the Havana Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by its member States in June 2016.

C. Early implementation at the national and local levels

50. To date, 60 countries have designated national focal points specifically to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. In addition, 74 national disaster risk reduction platforms are reviewing and aligning their work with the Sendai Framework. Technical support and guidance were also provided to five countries in the Arab region to strengthen national capacities and coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and to pilot national indicators to monitor implementation. Across Asia and the Pacific a number of countries have calibrated their national legislative and regulatory frameworks to implement the Sendai Framework in their own contexts, including developing disaster risk management status reports as well as public-private partnerships for resilience.

51. National loss and damage databases are instrumental in generating accurate country risk profiles and enhancing knowledge and understanding of risk with a view to designing multi-hazard disaster risk policies based on a localized understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions. To date, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, together with partners, has supported the establishment and strengthening of national databases in 90 countries.

52. To support national Governments to develop and implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction policies, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, through its Global Education and Training Institute in Incheon, Republic of Korea, trained 1,300 national and local government officials on the practical application of risk reduction policies and the development of coherent approaches to implement the Sendai Framework. An online version of the course will be launched this year.

IV. Global initiatives, stakeholder engagement and partnerships

53. While Governments play the leading role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Framework specifically recognizes the importance of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations and academia, in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. In this respect, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, together with other United

Nations agencies and numerous partners, is providing technical guidance and support to Governments and a wide range of stakeholders to integrate disaster risk into policies and programmes. The following paragraphs provide examples of some of this work.

Parliamentarians and local governments

54. Realizing the Sendai Framework's ambitious goal to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk requires the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership at all levels. Parliamentarians have a prominent role in these efforts. In 2015, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) assembled Members of Parliament during the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and agreed to review, draft and amend legislation to align with the Sendai Framework. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction provides guidance to parliamentarians in their efforts to include disaster risk reduction in national legislations and budgets, including through technical support to the IPU 2016 Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe, the establishment of the East African Disaster Risk Reduction Parliamentarian Platform, the establishment of a network of parliamentarians for disaster resilience in Central Africa and advocacy work by Women in Parliaments.

55. Local authorities are at the forefront of reducing risk. The United Nations Strategy for Disaster Reduction Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready" campaign was launched in 2010 to engage local government and city officials in reducing disaster risks and building resilient cities by strengthening financial capacity for resilience, increasing infrastructure resilience, pursuing resilient urban development and design and improving emergency management capacities. By December 2015, more than 3,000 cities and local governments had joined the campaign and 27 training sessions had been conducted for local governments covering 48 countries in 2015. To support the implementation of and reporting on the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goal 11 at the local level, the campaign has developed new local-urban indicators which are currently being tested in selected cities. These efforts also support the United Cities and Local Governments network in the work to implement the Sendai Declaration of Local and Subnational Governments: "Ensuring enhanced resilience to disasters in the urban world" and to integrate disaster risk reduction at the local level through the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) process.

Private sector

56. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates that there will be over $50 trillion in new investment in infrastructure over the coming decades.[6] If this investment is not disaster risk-informed, it will dramatically increase the cost of future disasters. The incorporation and management of disaster risk in capital investments, supply chains and operations will be essential to achieve the Sendai Framework targets. The Sendai Framework highlights that the lack of regulation and incentives for private sector disaster risk reduction investment is an underlying risk driver, and calls for business to integrate

[6] See www.oecd.org/newsroom/massiveinfrastructureinvestmentneededtomeetfuturedemandsaysoecd.htm.

disaster risk into management practices, including through risk-sharing mechanisms and instruments, insurance and financial protection.

57. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) was established in November 2015 as a vehicle for more than 140 private sector partners to promote and implement the Sendai Framework. Working with chief executive officers, chairs and other senior executives and key decision makers from sectors including education, energy, information technology, consulting, insurance, logistics, real estate, retail, tourism and utilities, ARISE promotes sharing best practice, integrates disaster risk reduction into business practices and has initiated a number of catalytic disaster risk reduction projects within the sector.

58. For example, the PwC tool to simulate high-impact crises and benchmark resilience allows businesses to assess their crisis management in a wider public-private collaborative space and to identify where their crisis and resilience arrangements are optimized or weak, and where to focus and prioritize actions. The Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Small and Medium Enterprises, a collaboration between AECOM and IBM, is another example which provides training to small and medium enterprises in disaster resilience.

59. Disaster risk reduction is gaining momentum across the insurance sector. Disaster risk transfer and insurance are indispensable tools to reduce the financial impact of disasters on public and private investments and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation. The Principles for Sustainable Insurance initiative, a collaborative initiative between the United Nations and the insurance industry, rallied top insurance companies from around the world to reinforce their commitments to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework through public-private partnerships. The World Bank Group and UNDP also advocate for a more resilient and risk-informed global insurance market through the Insurance Development Forum, a collaboration with the private sector.

Children and youth

60. Disasters have a huge impact on schools, including causing significant loss of life, immediate economic costs and disruption to education that can last for years. The Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools is a Government-led global partnership for advancing safe school implementation at the national level. The Initiative is coordinated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and was developed in collaboration with key partners from the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector. The Initiative also promotes good practices and achievements in safe school implementation for replication in other countries and regions, helps identify challenges and offers technical assistance and particular expertise around the three pillars to support interested Governments in implementing school safety at the national level.

61. A number of Governments have endorsed the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools and the Istanbul road map to support the Initiative developed at the first meeting of safe school leaders hosted by the Government of Turkey in October 2014. At the second meeting of safe school leaders, hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in October 2015, an action plan was adopted that included a detailed road map for implementing the Initiative. The road map and the accompanying technical support packages provide guidance to Member States on

disaster risk reduction education as well as safe school infrastructure. Political commitment and membership in the Initiative has increased from 16 to 32 countries, and the Governments of Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have expressed interest in technical support from the Initiative.

62. It is fundamental to engage young people, the future policy makers and technical experts, in implementing the Sendai Framework. A youth engagement platform for disaster risk reduction is currently being developed and the publication of *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: For Children* in 2015 will support children's engagement across these efforts, where appropriate, and raise awareness of disaster preparedness.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

63. The Sendai Framework recognizes the importance of empowering women to participate in gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters and, in order to address the underlying drivers of risk, it is crucial to address the gender inequality of risk and promote community resilience, not just by ensuring women's safety and response but also by actively engaging women as agents of change in disaster risk management.

Persons with disabilities

64. People with disabilities are disproportionately affected by disasters. As underscored in the Sendai Framework, effective disaster risk reduction requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation. As a promising step in this direction, in December 2015 participants at the Dhaka Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management adopted a declaration calling for inclusion and leadership of persons with disabilities within all disaster risk management programmes. In addition, the declaration acknowledges the importance of linking disability-inclusive disaster risk management with Agenda 2030 on the basis of the understanding that inclusion builds the resilience of the whole of society, safeguards development gains and minimizes disaster losses. Furthermore, recommendations have been made to the midterm review of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to align it with the Sendai Framework.

Science and technology

65. Science and technology have a fundamental role to play in forecasting disasters, building resilient infrastructure and accurately calculating disaster losses. Expanding the interface between science, technology and policy is therefore essential for effective disaster risk reduction. Science and technology stakeholders participated actively in the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, including announcing the launch of a number of science and technology initiatives and commitments to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. In January 2016, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction hosted the Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The main outcome of the conference, which was attended by more than 700 science and technology experts representing numerous scientific institutions and societies, as well as young scientists, was the development of a comprehensive 15-year road map to define the expected outcomes

of the science and technology work under the four Sendai Framework priorities for action and ways to monitor progress and needs.

66. The global science and technology effort builds upon and reinforces a number of regional initiatives, including the recent establishment of the Arab Region Science and Technical Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Asia Science, Technology and Academia Advisory Group, established in 2015 to promote evidence-based and science-informed disaster risk reduction policies. Subsequently, the first Asian Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction was hosted by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok on 23 and 24 August 2015.

Early warning

67. Early warning and preparedness play a significant role in preventing hazardous events from becoming disasters. Early warning saves lives, reduces economic losses and helps prevent damage to critical infrastructure. The Climate Risk and Early Warning System (CREWS) initiative, launched at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris in December 2015, as part of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, aims to significantly increase the provision of weather and climate services and the capacity to generate and communicate effective impact-based, multi-hazard early warning systems to protect lives, livelihoods and assets in least developed countries and small island developing States. The CREWS initiative is being implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems was established in early 2016 to facilitate the sharing of expertise and good practice to strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems, in close cooperation with CREWS. Similarly, with a focus on seismic risk, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization launched the International Platform on Earthquake Early Warning Systems in December 2015.

Health

68. Disasters can cripple health systems, overwhelming capacity to cope with the spread of disease and interrupting services in critical sectors. Substantially reducing disaster damage to critical infrastructure, including health facilities, is at the core of the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, the Sendai Framework expands the scope of disaster risk reduction to consider reducing the risk of biological and technological hazards alongside risks to health and damage to health-care systems posed by hydro-meteorological and geophysical hazards. The World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health, the World Bank, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and partners are working together with Member States to strengthen assessment, planning and country capacity development for all-hazards emergency and disaster risk management, with a focus on emergency preparedness and the implementation of the International Health Regulations. For example, the Safe Hospitals Initiative promotes structural and non-structural safety and improved emergency risk management to ensure that hospitals and other health facilities can function and provide life-saving care in times of emergency.

69. To initiate the implementation of the health components of the Sendai Framework, on 10 and 11 March 2016 the Government of Thailand, in cooperation with WHO and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted an international conference on the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework. The Bangkok Principles, adopted at the conference, call for systematic cooperation, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management. The principles cover the shared need for risk assessment, surveillance and early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, coordinated incident management and transboundary cooperation. A pilot project will be implemented in three Ebola-affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), aiming to integrate health into disaster risk reduction national platforms and plans and to ensure that data on health emergencies and the impact of disasters on health are included in national disaster loss databases.

V. Global advocacy on disaster risk reduction

70. "Knowledge for Life" was the theme of the 2015 International Day for Disaster Reduction, which is held annually on 13 October. The International Day raised awareness of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices as a complement to scientific knowledge in disaster risk management and highlighted successful approaches for engaging local communities and indigenous peoples in implementing the Sendai Framework. The message reached over 8.5 million people through social media, with over 250 organizations participating in a Twitter Thunderclap. On the day, eight communities were declared disaster risk reduction champions for their skills in using local, traditional and indigenous knowledge to improve disaster risk management. The International Day also marked the end of the successful Step Up initiative. Since 2011, each year Step Up cast a spotlight on how disasters affect different groups, including children and young people, women and girls, people with disabilities and older persons. In 2016 the "Sendai Seven Campaign — 7 Targets, 7 Years" will be launched on the International Day, focusing each year on one of the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework.

World Tsunami Awareness Day

71. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/203, 5 November 2016 will be the first annual World Tsunami Awareness Day. From densely populated coastal cities to remote small islands, tsunamis can wipe out decades of development progress and take many lives. To promote the first World Tsunami Awareness Day and to mark the first anniversary of the Sendai Framework, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations hosted an event on 29 March 2016 to share lessons in preparing for tsunamis. In November, affected countries around the world will mark the day with evacuation drills and awareness-raising activities, with a focus on schools. A special event will also be held in New York to raise awareness on promising national efforts to prepare for tsunamis.

VI. Socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon

72. In its resolution 69/218 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in the present report a section on the implementation of the resolution, in which the Assembly underlined the importance of improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon. The Assembly also called for the strengthening of relevant institutional capacity, with a specific reference to the International Research Centre on El Niño in Guayaquil, Ecuador. In its resolution 70/110, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in his report a section addressing the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon. At the request of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council convened a special meeting on the economic, social, and environmental impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon on 6 May 2016, in collaboration with WMO and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The outcomes of the discussion were captured in a statement by the President of the Council titled "Reducing risks and capturing opportunities", which, along with the findings of a global review carried out by the United Nations Office on the socioeconomic impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño, has informed the present report. On 20 May 2016, the Secretary-General appointed Mary Robinson of Ireland and Macharia Kamau of Kenya as his Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate to provide the leadership required to tackle these challenges and raise the profile of the crises to ensure that an adequate humanitarian response is undertaken alongside longer-term approaches to build the resilience of the most vulnerable.

Impacts of the El Niño phenomenon on lives and livelihoods

73. The peak of the 2015/16 El Niño was comparable in strength to the strong 1982/83 and 1997/98 events and, therefore, one of the strongest on record. The warming of the central to east equatorial Pacific of 2°C had global impacts. It is estimated that more than 60 million people were affected in 2015 and 2016. At the time of drafting the present report, it was too early to provide an estimate of the total impact on the economies of the affected countries and communities. However, significant short- and long-term impacts on the health of individuals, the economy and food production locally, nationally, regionally and globally have been reported. People whose livelihoods depend on agriculture, fisheries and livestock were particularly affected. Not all countries have the same level of exposure to El Niño-related extreme events. The economic exposure was greater for middle- and upper-income countries while the relative impact, and the impact on people and their livelihoods, was far higher for lower-income countries and small island developing States.

74. Latin American economies were particularly affected. Heavy rains caused severe damage to the most southerly countries in Latin America, with up to 200,000 people forced to evacuate their homes. Other countries in the region, such as Brazil and Venezuela, faced heat waves and droughts. The Zika virus, carried by mosquitoes, thrives in high temperatures and stagnant waters and its rapid spread could be linked to El Niño. Conversely, Central America experienced the worst drought in decades. It affected food insecurity for a second consecutive year, with over 3.5 million people becoming food insecure and in need of humanitarian

assistance after suffering major crop losses owing to prolonged drought conditions. In the Caribbean, 3.6 million people were classified as food insecure and an additional 1.5 million people were severely food insecure. The insecurities resulted from decreased agricultural yields, reduced food availability and higher market prices.

75. In Eastern Africa, as of February 2016, 20.4 million people were severely food insecure and suffering from malnutrition, including 10.2 million in Ethiopia alone. In Central African countries, as of March 2016, 550,000 people had been affected by extreme weather events, with damage to homes, food supplies and infrastructure. Countries in Southern Africa faced the worst drought in 35 years, with those that depended on the agriculture sector particularly vulnerable. An estimated 31.6 million people were food insecure in the region, with Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe declaring drought emergencies. More than 1.8 million people were affected by floods in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, including 280,000 people who were displaced; there were 600 deaths and 15,500 cases of cholera.

76. Parts of South-East Asia and the Pacific experienced severe drought along with very severe cyclones. In the Pacific Region, 4.7 million people in 12 Pacific countries were estimated to be at risk from drought and increased rainfall associated with El Niño, while severe tropical cyclones made landfall in Fiji and Vanuatu. Dry conditions in Indonesia led to wildfires, water scarcity and subsequent crop production loss. In 2015, fires burned 2.6 million hectares of forest and agricultural land. Health effects, such as above-normal acute respiratory infections and other health repercussions, were reported.

Policies and plans to manage and reduce the risk of extreme events related to El Niño

77. Through concerted efforts by WMO, regional climate centres have been established, in close coordination with the WMO Regional Associations, to generate and deliver more regionally focused high-resolution data and products as well as training and capacity-building. The International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil is a regional climate centre designated by WMO.

78. Seasonal climate forecasts were produced at regular intervals for all affected regions by the regional climate centres, regional climate outlook forums, and national meteorological and hydrological services. The seasonal outlooks assessed the impacts of both the El Niño and La Niña conditions and other locally relevant climate drivers. Interpretations of regional climate variability were generated by the climate forecasting community, mainly the national meteorological and hydrological services, including prediction of variations from the norm regarding temperature and precipitation and related probability of higher-than-normal occurrence of natural hazards and other impacts.

79. For example, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre convened climate outlook forums to issue predictions and learn lessons regarding the El Niño impacts and preparedness mechanisms put in place by countries in Eastern Africa. In South Asia, WMO, the India Meteorological Department, the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia and the United States Geological Survey Center for Integrated Data Analytics collaborated to release rainfall forecasts for the 2015 monsoon season. Regular El Niño advisory notes

have also been prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia.

80. In response to these forecasts, countries and regional organizations adopted action plans to reduce the potentially devastating impacts of El Niño. Examples of activities initiated through the El Niño action plans included revitalizing health services to combat yellow fever, malaria and chikungunya and reinforcing education facilities. Social support services and safety nets were strengthened to reduce the economic impact of El Niño, including social cash transfers, income-generating public works and family welfare programmes.

81. Faced with lower food production and higher prices, some countries issued policies and initiated activities to help farmers cope with drought, such as seed distribution, crop diversification and rotation, farm input subsidy programmes, cloud seeding and water saving, as well as school feeding programmes. By allocating resources in advance of the El Niño conditions, countries were able to avert widespread food insecurity, safeguard food reserves and stabilize prices of staple foods. Prompted by alerts for possible flooding, landslides and wildland fires, countries also initiated disaster prevention measures, particularly for high-risk communities. Actions, including clearing river beds of debris, fortifying existing reservoirs and even constructing new dam walls, and improving local water management and soil conservation practices saved lives and reduced potential damage to infrastructure and economic losses. However, a number of countries were compelled to declare a state of emergency and to issue humanitarian appeals.

82. Initiatives were put in place to reinforce monitoring and surveillance mechanisms and to improve coordination among stakeholders at all levels. For example, the African Union Commission played a pivotal role in assisting countries to manage the risks of El Niño, including by leading and coordinating the development of contingency and response plans and mobilizing commitments and resources for their implementation. IGAD convened high-level regional consultative meetings to discuss El Niño mitigation plans and to coordinate resource mobilization efforts. The Southern African Development Community convened a regional meeting at which mitigation plans and a regional preparedness and response strategy to address the impacts of El Niño on agriculture and food and nutrition security in Southern Africa were discussed and agreed. In another case of regional risk reduction measures, 32 African countries are collaborating with African Risk Capacity, a specialized agency of the African Union, to improve their capacity to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events through finance mechanisms such as risk pooling and risk transfer.

83. The impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño event underscored the importance of a comprehensive understanding of slow onset disasters. Towards this end, ESCAP is leading the development of a regional methodology to assess the environmental, economic and social impacts of El Niño and communicate these to policymakers.

84. **Recommendations for reducing future impacts of El Niño are:**

(a) **Investment in long-term efforts to provide early warnings and climate predictions and increase local and national preparedness capacity and resilience in order to better manage extreme events. In this regard, WMO can**

continue to strengthen collaboration and exchange data and information with relevant institutions and network;

(b) Initiation of coordinated and comprehensive measures to prevent the economic, social and environmental impacts of El Niño conditions, including addressing the health consequences of El Niño by tackling increased levels of acute malnutrition and medical consequences associated with food insecurity; vulnerability to infectious diseases; higher incidence of respiratory diseases due to wildfires and health stress caused by heat waves; and disruption to health services;

(c) Systematic evaluation, recording and sharing of information and public accounts on disaster losses, including sex- and age-disaggregated data, to develop strategies and plans to address the impacts of future El Niño events;

(d) Systematic recording and dissemination of lessons learned on what was predicted, what was communicated, what the impacts were and what actions were taken in the context of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, drawing on institutions that contributed climate observations and monitoring, regional and national climate centres, and key sectors and other end-users of climate information at the national level.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

85. Important results have been achieved in the first year of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. With clear global targets accompanied by practical measures for action and by articulating the cross-cutting nature of disaster risk management as a critical component of sustainable development, the Sendai Framework is coherently aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

86. Effective integration of disaster risk management into sustainable development policies, practices and investments will require a monitoring system for the Sustainable Development Goals that integrates disaster risk reduction into its core indicators. Such work will require including the global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction reviews of the progress on the Sendai Framework in the deliberations and policy guidance of the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

87. Important work is needed to ensure implementation of the Sendai Framework and that the benefits of disaster risk management are felt by all. This includes the completion of the ongoing work by the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. It is expected that the working group's efforts will lead to the adoption by the General Assembly of a set of practical and applicable indicators to measure progress against the Sendai Framework's global targets and of terminology to support a harmonized understanding and practice of disaster risk management. The indicators will form the foundation of a new monitoring instrument, the Sendai Framework monitor, to be presented at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2017.

88. The Sendai Framework target on achieving a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 is the first milestone. Reaching it will require persistent focus, dedication and appropriate resources. Over the next four years concerted efforts will be required to better understand existing levels of disaster risk and trends, to develop strategies based on a sound knowledge of current challenges and to set clear priorities and targets. Measures must include the establishment or enhancement of systems to record disaster losses with a database of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses, to establish hazard and vulnerability assessments and disaster risk estimates.

89. The adoption of national policies and normative frameworks with clearly defined strategies and targets will improve accountability, together with continued collaboration and commitment by the public and private sectors to integrate disaster risk reduction into their respective policies, practices and investments. The draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters adopted by the International Law Commission are important in this respect.

90. The fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Mexico in May 2017, as well as the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction provide opportunities to assess progress in implementing the Sendai Framework and voluntary commitments. To utilize the global and regional platforms as vehicles to accelerate implementation of the Framework, it is important that countries and stakeholders prepare by identifying challenges and opportunities, and come ready to share their experiences. Political commitment at the highest levels of government, as well as support from local governments, the private sector, the scientific community, civil society and other stakeholders, is essential.

91. The United Nations system will need to step up its efforts to support countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the larger context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, the functions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction are an invaluable asset and the recently adopted revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience entitled "Towards a risk-informed and integrated approach to sustainable development" will be important.

92. A substantial increase in investment in disaster risk reduction is required if the expected outcome and the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework are to be attained by 2030. While some progress has been made, the volume of resources available for disaster risk reduction falls well short of that required to ensure the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives and livelihoods, and in the economic, physical, social and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. The United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction is the existing mechanism to assist in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework and will require enhancement of its role and increases in the volume, predictability, timeliness and stability of funding.

93. **In the light of the above, it is recommended that:**

(a) **States' experts continue actively engaging in the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction and adopt a set of practical, applicable and easy-to-communicate indicators to measure progress against the Sendai Framework's global targets and indicators, which it will transmit to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption in December 2016;**

(b) **States ensure that the final set of Sustainable Development Goals indicators relating to disaster risk reduction is developed in line with the indicators and methodology developed by the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group in order to ensure coherence in implementation, collection of data and reporting;**

(c) **States and other stakeholders engage at the highest levels in the upcoming regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and in the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2017;**

(d) **States continue working on data collection and development of baselines, including through the establishment or enhancement of systems to record disaster losses with a database of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back at least until 2005;**

(e) **States give priority and devote particular efforts and resources to the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 as per global target (e) of the Sendai Framework, and ensure integration of disaster risk reduction across other national and local development strategies, plans and programmes, as appropriate;**

(f) **States take into account the periodic progress reviews of the Sendai Framework in the context of the deliberations of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council;**

(g) **States enhance international cooperation and the provision of means of implementation to support least developed countries and small island developing States in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and, in that context, make bilateral and multilateral development assistance programmes risk-informed;**

(h) **States consider augmenting their financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction in order to continue to support the efforts of Member States outlined in the present report.**